

Youth Heads in India Shocked at Reports Of Links to C.I.A.

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NEW DELHI, Feb. 20—Reports that Indian student and youth groups have received funds from foundations connected with the Central Intelligence Agency have shocked and dismayed leaders of Indian youth movements.

"This is a terrible blow, many of our members will undoubtedly feel that their faith has been betrayed," V.S. Rama Chandra, executive secretary of the National Student Press Council of India, said today.

"It caught us all by surprise, but if it is true it will certainly hurt our prestige," said an official at the International Youth Center.

Both of these organizations have been identified in The New York Times as having received funds from the foundation for Youth and Student Affairs, a New York organization that was said to be a conduit for funds from the intelligence agency.

Mr. Rama Chandra confirmed that the press council had received funds from the foundation to help set up a magazine called "student Chronicle" early in 1965. The funds were to subsidize the magazine for six months.

"After that, we were to have become self-sufficient or at least turn to indigenous sources of financing," he explained. "Unfortunately, we couldn't do either and a few months after the foundation's subsidy stopped we had to close the magazine."

Since 1965, Mr. Rama Chandra said, his council, which represents 22 student newspapers throughout India, had received no funds from any foundation. However, he said the press council had received assistance from the International Student Conference, a group which has also been linked with the Central Intelligence Agency.

At the International Youth Center office here, nobody could confirm that the organization had ever received funds from the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs. The center's director was out of town.